

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-60 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17, 19-23, 27-51, and 53-56 are withdrawn, Claims 2, 18, 26, 52, and 57 are amended, and new Claims 59 and 60 are added by the present amendment. As amended Claims 2, 18, 26, 52, and 57 and new Claims 59 and 60 are supported by the original disclosure,¹ no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 18, 24, 25, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ohno et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020145788, herein Ohno); Claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Takeshita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,146, herein Takeshita); Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ohno; Claims 57 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Takeshita in view of Yamaguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,746, hereinafter Yamaguchi).

The present reply includes the identifier “Withdrawn – Currently Amended” for Claim 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are properly labeled with the appropriate identifiers.

¹See, e.g., the specification at page 36, lines 13-22 and Figures 16-18.

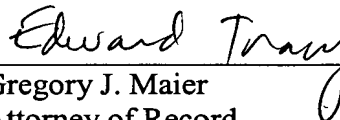
Application No. 10/803,991

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of June 28, 2006

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and the Amendment filed March 16, 2006, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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